

2003  
Parks & Recreation Department  
Cemetery Department

**Parks and Recreation Director**

Angela Snell, C.P.R.P

*Certified Parks and Recreation Professional*

**Recreation Supervisor**

Gary Grindle

**Parks Foreman**

Doug Schoenfeldt

**Cemetery Foreman**

Gary Rosiello

**Senior Account Clerk**

Jean Giles

**Parks and Cemetery Commission**

John Bowles, Chairperson

Patsy Bisceglia

Robert Zecco

*The department is responsible for the town's recreation programs, park facilities, and the town's cemetery.*

**Recreation Department**

The Recreation Department organizes a variety of recreation programs throughout the year for residents of all ages. A brochure is published four times a year listing the upcoming schedule. Flyers are distributed at various locations in town including all K-8 Public schools, the Town Library, the Senior Center, and the Town Office Building. Registration is first come, first serve. Many programs have limited space and fill up early. Programs with low enrollment are canceled. Residents can now sign up for our on line list serve and receive e-mails about upcoming registrations and program flyers. Visit our web site at  
<http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/parkrec/index.asp>

**Programs offered in 2003 ( \* =indicates a new program this year)**

**Preschool activities**

Tot activities, playgroups, gymnastics, swim lessons, preschool swim\*, pee wee tennis, kids crafts, tiny blades ice skating, and summer playgroups.

**Grade school activities**

Tae Kwon Do\*, wind surfing\*, sailing, girl volleyball lessons \*, pottery classes, summer basketball clinics, dance, art classes, tiny tykes football, basketball leagues,

flag football, swim lessons, special needs bowling, special olympics teams, golf lessons, summer playgroups, ice skating lessons, friday field trips in the summer, kids crafts, fishing clinic, ski lessons, and tennis lessons.

#### **Teen & Adult activities**

Aerobics, Baby-sitting course, kickboxing, tai chi, yoga, water aerobics, tennis, teen tennis, golf lessons, field hockey, swim lessons, ski lessons, basketball, rowing, Women's pick up basketball, coed volleyball, Special Olympics teams, and pilates.

#### **Senior activities**

Line dancing, tai chi, acrylic painting, water color, clay creations, learn to draw, bowling, men's softball, senior blades ice skating, and fitness & nutrition.

#### **Trips Offered**

Bus trips were offered to Boston, New York City, and the Boston Pops. Summer field trips were offered to youth on Fridays in July and August.

#### **Special Events**

Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, Annual Ski & Skate Swap in November, Dean Park Summer Concerts, Winter Children's concert, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kid's Equipment Day at the Municipal Garage in May.

### **Programs**

The most popular program is the winter basketball program which saw another increase this year from 640 to 672 participants in grades 3 through 9. A waiting list had to be established again as the demand is greater than the space we have. The program is supported by the support of over 100 parent volunteer coaches and assistants. Sign up for this program is held in October and play starts in December of each year.

Another popular program continues to be the summer playgrounds. This year over 400 grade school children participated in playground activities, Monday through Thursdays, offered at three sites: the Middle School, Dean Park, and at Coolidge School, where an all day option was offered. Preschool children also participated in their own summer tots program. This program had over 150 children aged 4 & 5 participate. The costs of these programs were totally self-funded this year by program registrations. Now all programs are self-funded except for swimming lessons.

#### **Special Needs program**

The Special Needs program is run by volunteers and led by Christopher and Jackie Rourke. Without their dedication and time this program would not be possible.

This summer Wendy Quirion, organized a fundraiser to build a memorial to Paula Rourke, the founder of the Special Needs Program and a Parks and Recreation Department employee for over 25 years. Friends, co-workers, and residents raised over \$5,000 for the memorial. A brand new flag pole, memorial marker, and bench were dedicated to Paula's memory in August before the annual Fire dept. vs. Police

dept. Special Needs benefit softball game. When people come to Dean Park softball field, Paula's memory will be remembered for years to come. The Department thanks all who contributed to this memorial.

This year the Special Needs program sponsored the following events: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Paula Rourke Pancake Breakfast, Spaghetti Supper fundraiser, Awards Night, Holiday Parties, and Family cookout at Dean Park. The program also participated in the following Special Olympics teams: soccer, basketball, track and field, softball, golf, and bocce. The program relies on donations and fundraisers to support the cost of the athletes to participate in Special Olympics events and for the cost of uniforms and buses to state tournaments. The volunteers greatly appreciate everyone who has donated to the program in the past year.

### **Parks Department**

This year the Parks Department was staffed by the Parks Foreman, three full time maintenance craftsmen, and three part-time maintenance workers who worked from April to November. In April a new full time position was added to the budget to help take care of the extra fields added to the department with the addition of 23 new acres at the High School; bringing our full time staff total to five.

In August the department took over the maintenance of the football field, lacrosse field, and softball field at the new high school. This fall was the first year of varsity play on those new fields. In late October the town accepted the remaining fields which the town will now maintain.

This year the town accepted a new parcel of land as a recreational area located in the Toblin Hills Subdivision off Walnut Street at the annual town meeting. The town meeting members also approved funding for the Municipal Drive renovation project. This project will begin in summer of 2004.

The Lake Street Recreation area had its' own access road installed in the spring. Now residents can access the town fields by using this road off of Lake Street. Previously residents had to use the entrance from S.A.C. Park. The town appreciates S.A.C.'s cooperation and patience in allowing us use of their entrance while the road way was being built.

The parks department provides mowing and/or light maintenance of the state owned boat ramps on Lake Quinsigamond, the Donahue Rowing Center, the front of the Municipal Office Building, a portion of the Library, 11 Veteran's Squares, and the following parks and fields:

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Arrowwood Park	Arrowwood Ave, Off S. Quinsigamond
Beal School Field	Main Street and Hascall Street

Coolidge School Fields	Florence St, Off S. Quinsigamond
Corazzini Boat Ramp (State)	No. Quinsigamond Ave.
Dean Park	Main Street
Donahue Rowing Center	No. Quinsigamond Ave.
Edgemere Park	Edgemere Blvd, Off Route 20
Greylock Park	N. Quinsigamond to Phillips Ave to Avon Ave
Hillando Park	Hillando Drive
Oak Middle School Athletic Fields	Oak Street
Ireta Road	Ireta Road, Off West Main Street
Jordan Pond Recreation area.	Behind Coolidge School, Florence Street
Lake Street Property	Lake Street
Maple Ave Fields	Maple Avenue
Former Masonic Property	Prospect Street
Melody Park	Melody Lane, Off Route 140 South
Middle School Fields	Hutchins Ave , off Maple Ave
Municipal Fields	Municipal Drive, Near Paton School
Northshore Field	Parker Road, off N. Quinsigamond Ave.
Oak Island Boat Ramp (State)	Route 20, across from Edgemere Blvd.
Rotary Park	Pond View Drive. Off Old Mill Road
Hills Farm	Stoney Hill Farm Road and Deer Run

**New in 2003**

Toblin Hills	Nursery Drive, off Walnut Street
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### **Youth Sports Organizations**

In 2003 the following youth sports organizations used the town fields for programs for residents. These organizations are organized by parent volunteers. Pop Warner Football & Cheerleading, Babe Ruth Baseball, Little League baseball & softball, Girls Youth Lacrosse, Boys Youth Lacrosse, and Youth Soccer.

The Shrewsbury Little League Board of Directors presented the department with a plaque of appreciation at the annual parade/field day in June that read “Shrewsbury Little League thanks the Shrewsbury Parks and Recreation Department and Commission for your continued support and cooperation to Baseball and Softball in Shrewsbury Massachusetts. June 29, 2003. Shrewsbury Little League Board of Directors”

In October the Shrewsbury Soccer Association held the dedication of their new soccer fields at the Glavin Center. Members of the Board of Selectman accepted a plaque on behalf of the town that read “Town of Shrewsbury. In appreciation for the support toward the development of the soccer complex and the Irving A. Glavin Center. These fields represent a cooperative effort and partnership between the Irving A. Glavin Center, Shrewsbury Community, and Shrewsbury Youth Soccer. October 11, 2003”

The department appreciates the cooperation of these town sports organizations throughout the year and looks forward to working with everyone again in 2004.

### **Community Events**

The parks staff assisted with the clean up for various community events such as the Spirit of Shrewsbury Town Common Festival and Post Parade Celebration at Dean Park and the Annual Town Clean up organized by the Garden Club.

### **Donahue Rowing Center**

The town is going to miss Irving James Donahue, Jr. who passed away in December. Mr. Donahue was instrumental in the funding and vision of the Donahue Rowing Center in 1991 and again with the addition built in 2002. His support and love for the sport of rowing will be truly missed by many.

This year new tenants moved in the Donahue Rowing Center utilizing the new space created by last year's addition. Clark University and Assumption College now row out of the DRC and the Quinsigamond Rowing Association started renting their own bay this spring.

### **Cemetery Department**

The Cemetery staff consists of one Foreman and one maintenance craftsman. One part time seasonal worker assisted the department during the spring and summer months and a contractor was hired to assist the department with the fall leaf clean up.

Cemetery lots may be purchased only by residents of the town for interment of immediate relatives of the lot owner. The cemetery is a municipally subsidized service for the residents.

Year	Lots Sold	Interments
2003	170	117
2002	225	153
2001	153	131

The Cemetery works with the Veteran's office to prepare the Cemetery for the Annual Memorial Day remembrances. Flags are placed on all Veteran's graves on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day.

### **Parks and Cemetery Commission**

The Commission meets with the Parks and Recreation Director once a month to discuss current issues and policies that concern the parks and cemetery. They also approve the sale of lots for the cemetery.

This past year the Commission worked on approving a final design for the master plan for the Lake Street Recreation area. They also met with the Garden Club

concerning the land at the former Masonic Property on Prospect Street. The Garden Club began organizing work parties to improve the existing walking trails and planted bulbs at the entrance.

**A note from the Director**

A special thank you goes out to Michael Hale, Assistant Town Manager, for being “Acting Director” while I was out on maternity leave. Thank you to my staff for your dedication through out the year and for the extra efforts while I was out.

Submitted by  
Angela Snell, C.P.R.P.